

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A spare tire handling device adapted for moving a spare tire relative to a vehicle, the device comprising, in combination:

a winch apparatus;

a flexible member having one end attached to the winch and the other end detachably engageable with the tire, the tire being displaceable from an accessible position to a stored position in response to the rotation of the winch in one direction and from the stored position to the accessible position in response to the rotation of the winch in the opposite direction;

a wheel retainer member adjacent to the other end of the flexible member, the wheel retainer member having a housing and at least one extending portion being rotatable from a retracted position to an extended position, the housing having a secondary lock assembly and the spare tire having a rim, the rim including a radial web portion axially oriented with respect to a face of the spare tire and including a rim spacer member adjacent the rim, the rim spacer member having a portion forming a hole and an axially extending stand-off portion adjacent the hole, the flexible member being disposed in the hole, the stand-off portion limiting the axial movement of the wheel retainer member into the radial web portion of the rim wherein the at least one extending portion passes through the aperture in the rim when a face of the tire is in one position, and the at least one extending portion is prevented from passing through the aperture when the face of the tire is in another position;

a stop adjacent the housing, the stop preventing over-rotation of the at least one extending portion beyond the extended position; and a biasing member urging the at least one extending portion toward the extended position.

2. (Original) The spare tire handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the biasing member is a torsional spring

3. (Currently Amended) The spare tire handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one extended-ing portion is a pair of opposite extended members.

4. (Currently Amended) The spare tire handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the spare tire has a rim including an aperture, the wheel retainer member being insertable into the aperture when the at least one extended ing portion is in the retracted position and being sized greater than the aperture when the extended ing portion is moved by the biasing member toward the extended position.

5. (Currently Amended) The spare tire handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the at least one extended ing portion has a hole, and the housing has an opening, and further comprising: a pivot pin disposed in the hole and the opening to connect the extended ing portion to the housing, the biasing member is adjacent the pivot pin.

6. (Currently Amended) The spare tire handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the biasing member is a torsional spring member having one end adjacent to the housing and the

other end adjacent to the extended ing portion, and further comprising: a pivot pin connecting the extended ing portion to the housing.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The spare tire handling device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the tire having a rim portion, the rim portion including a recess, and further comprising: a rim spacer member adjacent the rim, the spacer member having a radial wing portion contacting the recess to orient the rim spacer in the rim.

11. (Original) The spare tire handling device as claimed in claim 1 further comprising: a rim spacer member adjacent the tire, the rim spacer member being sized to permit a predetermined size of tire to be accommodated by the spare tire handling device.

12-26 (canceled).